

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021 EDITION

www.busanforeignschool.org



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL
Embracing Diversity. Serving for Excellence.



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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

**Happy
Winter
Holidays!**



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | DECEMBER 2021 EDITION

Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman

The second half of Quarter 2 has been full of opportunities for us to come together as a SHARK community. Our SKAC athletic practices and competitions have been in full swing to develop students' teamwork, individual skills, positive self-esteem, and school spirit. Our student organizations have sponsored a variety of fundraising events including the NHS stationary drive to benefit a local orphanage and MS StuCo Halloween door decorating and NHS change-for-change toward the CureAll pediatric cancer treatment organization. Through elementary student initiatives including an Anchored4Life leadership club bake sale and Mr. Ehrke's Grade 2 class student-designed greeting card sales, nearly 600,000 KRW (over \$500 USD) were donated to the Korean Red Cross benefitting Afghan refugees.

We had an amazing Thanksgiving celebration with the help of Chef Oscar, CJ Freshway, and many PTSO volunteers that created a delicious meal and precious memory for us all to share. It was fantastic to see so many parents celebrating with us.

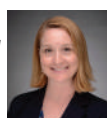
November and December were full of exciting activities that promoted student learning and team building including assemblies, field trips, music concerts, STEM fairs, and Model UN. Our Seniors have begun to receive acceptance to top universities as a result of their effort and well-rounded development over the years, and the support of caring adults. Every day,

our dedicated teachers provide tremendous support to students as they develop socially, emotionally, and academically.

Through the ASC WASC reaccreditation process, we continuously review and refine our school policies and procedures. Our BFS SHARK Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs) represent the character traits that are most important for students to develop by the time they graduate. Since the current SHARK SLOs were created in 2015-16, we recently asked teachers, parents, and students to reflect and provide input. As a result, the SHARK SLO indicators have been updated to best align with our school mission and vision.

We are so fortunate to have such a caring and supportive school community. We appreciate all the ways that our students, parents, teachers, and staff make our community better. The upcoming Winter Break is a time to enjoy spending time with family and friends. We wish everyone a safe and joyful Winter Break. We return to school on January 10th with two weeks of virtual learning. While this is not our preferred mode of learning, students will receive high-quality instruction during this time. In 2022, we will continue to be adaptable and resilient as we learn and grow together.

Ms. Lauren Harvey
Elementary Principal



Mr. Carl Brenneman
Upper School Principal



BFS SHARK SLO Updates

The BFS SHARK Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs) represent the character traits that are most important for students to develop by the time they graduate. As part of our continuous school improvement process, we recently asked teachers, parents, and MS/HS students to reflect and provide input on any needed changes. This input was synthesized by our SLO Committee. As a result, the SHARK SLO indicators have been updated to best align with our school mission and vision.

S-Socially Conscious: Be empathetic!

Socially Conscious students care about everyone

This was updated from “caring” to “empathetic” to reflect the importance of empathy as the foundation of bullying prevention and the ability to be inclusive of different opinions and experiences.

H-Hardworking: Do your best work!

Hardworking learners do their best

This was updated to focus on personal best, integrity of work, and embracing failure as a learning opportunity.

A-Active Communicator: Be an advocate!

Active communicators listen and collaborate

More than being an articulate speaker and active listener, we have shifted to focus on active communicators who collaborate, communicate authentically, and recognize unfairness and advocate for self and others.

R-Respectful: Be responsible for yourself and others!

Respectful citizens are responsible for themselves and others

This was updated to add the need to show respect by developing awareness and recognizing the responsibility to stand up to exclusion, prejudice, bias, and injustice.

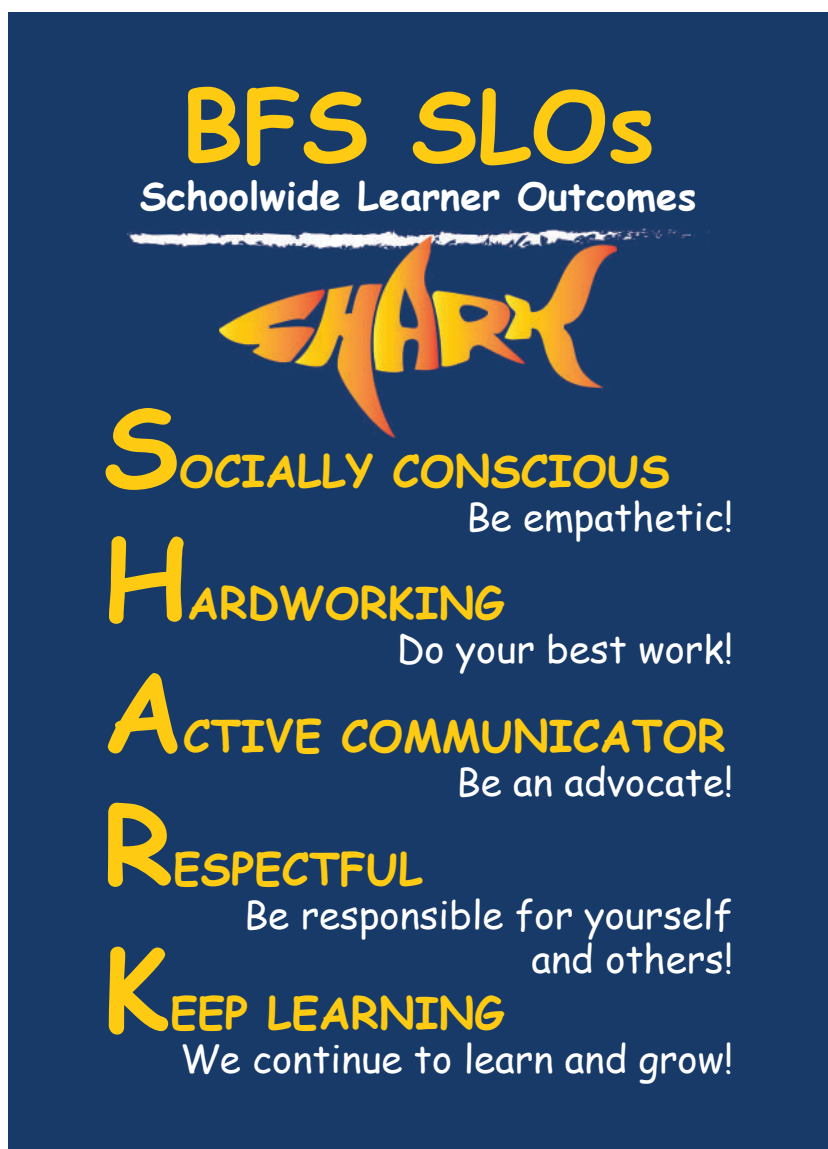
K-Keep learning: We continue to learn and grow!

BFS students have a growth mindset

Knowledgeable was seen by students as a fixed point that puts negative pressure on them. We want to focus on the continual learning process emphasizing growth mindset, individual effort, adaptability, and various types of knowledge.

We appreciate the input of teachers, parents, and MS/HS students to update the SHARK SLOs.

A full list of the SLO indicators is available on our website.



2021-22 SY Thanksgiving

American Thanksgiving holds a special place at Busan Foreign School. On this day, the BFS community gets together to give thanks in many different ways. The day started with a Thanksgiving Turkey trot in the elementary. Students trotted all the way to the Jangsan reservoir while reflecting on the many things they are thankful for. Our PTO and HS Student Council teamed up and distributed Autumn leaves throughout the schools: Students wrote in them their thanksgiving notes, which became the basis for a Thanksgiving poster. We are particularly thankful we could invite parents to sit and share the Thanksgiving traditional meal with their children at the school. This would not have been possible without the involvement of Chef Oscar, who worked with our cafeteria provider CJ and our parents who came early morning to help carve chicken and turkey, and donate the desserts for the meal. Finally, the day finished with the MS and PTO sponsored turkey bingo. A full day filled with gratitude.



2021-22 SY Yearbook Picture Day

As we celebrate 25 years since the founding of BFS, we can't wait to see what this year's yearbook's theme will be. A year long publication, individual and classroom pictures occupy a large space. This year's pictures were taken in November and our students paid special attention to look their best. Another way to create lifelong memories at BFS.



Reading Buddies

Our middle and high schoolers are now contributing to the Reading Buddies BFS program. Depending on numbers, elementary students are split and some get to visit the secondary classrooms. It is nice to have young students looking up to older students at an early age. We are confident our MS and HS students will provide a good example.



Día de los muertos

Hoy, Noviembre 1 y mañana se celebra el “día de los muertos” en México y otros países de Latino América, en honor de los difuntos.

Our students in the Spanish classes have been learning about this important holiday, its traditions, and participating in the remembrance of the dead ones. They wrote letters to a dead person, created information brochures, put together visual altars, and decorated skulls.



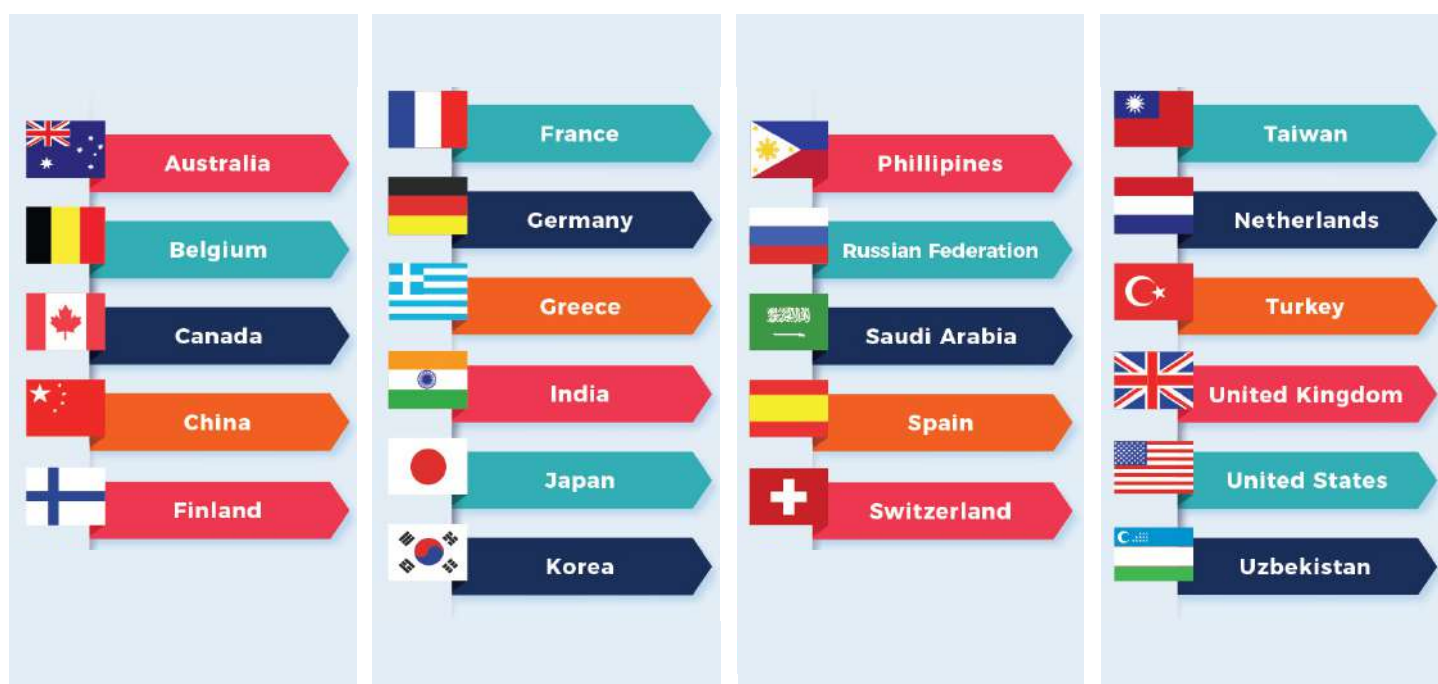
#Call to Earth Day

On November 10th, CNN and Rolex organized a call to help our mother planet, the Earth. As a contributing factor BFS ran a day long campaign sharing small things we can all do in order to save energy and reduce waste. The BFS Art Club also contributed by making an awareness poster using recycled materials. We can make a difference!



Geographical Diversity at BFS

Admissions often gets questions about our student and staff body citizenship diversity. How many nationalities do you count?





Counselor's Corner

A great way to improve well-being is having gratitude:

Research is finding that people who consistently practice gratitude will not only be happier, but healthier too. Here are some scientifically proven ways that gratitude can help you:

- **Gratitude Improves Mental Health:** can increase happiness and self-esteem, decrease harmful thoughts, and help people connect to something larger than themselves.
- **Gratitude Improves Physical Health:** can decrease aches and pains and lower blood pressure .
- **Gratitude Improves Relationships:** expressing gratitude can improve friendships and relationships with others. People may regard you as more trustworthy and social and feel more connected to you.
- **Gratitude Improves Sleep:** can increase the amount of sleep you receive and improve the quality of your sleep .
- **Gratitude Improves Brain Development:** can increase activity in the prefrontal cortex and improve learning and decision making.

Knowing the benefits, there are many ways that we can practice gratitude on a daily basis. One of the most recommended and beneficial ways to practice gratitude is by keeping a gratitude journal. Some prompts for writing may include:

- ▶ Write about something someone did for you that made you feel good
- ▶ Write about something that made you laugh today
- ▶ What is one way you can show your gratitude for someone this week
- ▶ What is one unique thing about you that you feel proud of
- ▶ Look out the window, what is something you're grateful for outside
- ▶ Write a thank you note to yourself
- ▶ Write about something you're looking forward to
- ▶ Write about something that you have now that you didn't have a year ago
- ▶ Reflect on a time you made a mistake and what you learned from it
- ▶ List three people who helped you through a difficult situation
- ▶ Write a letter of appreciation to someone. You may choose to give this letter to them or keep it as part of your journal

Ms. Austin Castillo

Elementary Winter Concert & Art Show

Thank you everyone who supported the elementary music concert & fine arts show. Seeing our community back together was so encouraging as we continue to learn through the challenges of the pandemic.



Early Childhood Winter Concert & Gingerbread House Making Activity

At the Early Childhood Winter Concert, the PK3 and K4 classes performed two songs led by Mr. Santos. After that, each family put together a gingerbread house decorated with lots of yummy treats donated by families. It was wonderful to see our Early Childhood families celebrating together.



Elementary STEM Fair

The STEM Fair demonstrated students' learning in Science and Makerspace in Kindergarten, Grade 1, 3, and 4 this quarter. Students used academic vocabulary to explain the principles used to create their projects. It was great to see students, parents, and teachers come together for this event. Early Childhood and Grades 2 and 5 will hold their STEM fair in Quarter 4.



Elementary December SLO Assembly

Thank you Grade 2 for hosting December morning student assembly and guiding us into reflecting on what it means to be a respectful citizen.



Early Childhood Field Trip to Haeundae Blueline Park Train

Early Childhood had a great time riding the Haeundae Blueline Park Train on their field trip. They also enjoyed playing in the sand at Songjeong Beach before coming back to school. They collected many ideas about trains and are excited to create their own trains.



Kindergarten Preparing for STEM Fair

Leading up to the science fair, our kindergarteners have been busy building marble runs. Through this exercise our young engineers experiment with slopes, turns, gravity, heights, and much more!



Grade 3 Preparing STEM Fair

Grade 3 experimented with force and motion outdoors. They were given a set of materials and asked to figure out what to do to make these slide fast. They also had to record the results of their experiments in a science log.



Grade 5 Dissecting Owl Pellets

Grade 5 dissected owl pellets for their unit on ecosystems. Students examined how organisms in an ecosystem interact. Their final projects show how energy and matter move through ecosystems.



Bobby (Grade 5) Broadcasts at Busan e-FM

Every Sunday during the month of November at 11:00 am, Bobby (Grade 5) broadcasted at Busan e-FM (FM 90.5). Scan the QR code to listen to his announcements. Good job Bobby!



MS & HS Winter Concert

December 8th was a special night at BFS! It was the first time in two years we could showcase students work in the Arts Department at the school. We featured some great Art work and Makerspace work in the lobby and this was followed by a Musical celebration in the Gym. We had three concert bands perform, the BFS Jazz Band, the BFS Middle School Choir, our String Ensemble "Stringers," the BFS Saxophone Quartet and a beautiful Mozart Piano Sonata performed by Clara An. We had an energetic crowd of parents, friends and staff attend. All in all a great night at BFS!



Middle School Field Trip

The first field trip organized at BFS for a long, long time. I think our middle schoolers really enjoyed spending the day outdoors. We are lucky at BFS to be just 10 minutes from the beach, and able to enjoy some of the new rides that have recently opened in the area. Check the photos! You will see middle schoolers engaged in building sand castles, playing sports, and racing down the Luge track.



Middle School Quarter 2 SLO Morning Assembly

Middle school quarter 2 SLO morning assembly focused on the SHARK “R” value: respectful and responsible. They had to put these traits in practice by working together to build the tallest possible tower with paper cups in 120 seconds! At the end of the assembly all students got a puzzle piece saying “you are an essential piece”. Who does not like to feel valued?



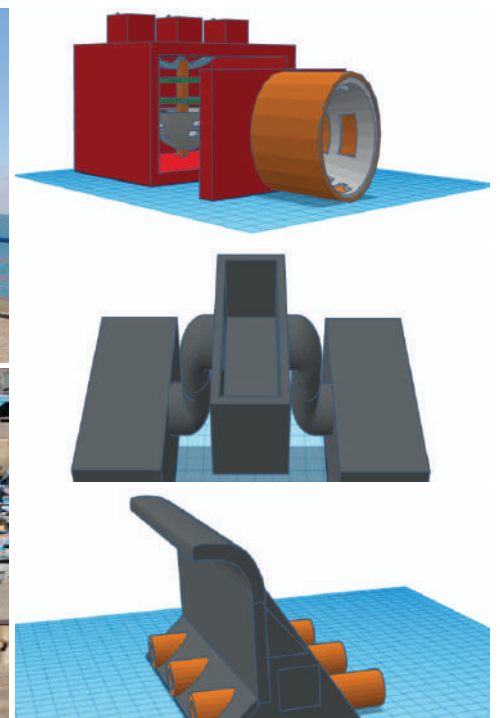
Middle School & High School Walking Field Trip

Ms. Cottier and Mr. Wright took the grade 6 Earth Science and HS Environmental Science students on a walking field trip to Jangsan Mountain. They first stopped at a beautiful outcrop of a rhyolitic flow structure to analyze the geologic history and relative age of the mountain by observing crosscutting relations, law of superposition, and horizontality. They then adventured across the mountain to a wonderful boulder field (Felsenmeer) where they looked for spherulitic rhyolites and tested the hardness's of different minerals in porphyritic textures of rock.



High School Makerspace Field Trip to Chungsapo

Our BFS high school students taking Makerspace have been researching and learning about the various flood solutions that already exist in coastal areas around the world. In addition, they have been planning and designing our own flood solutions for our 3D Printing Unit. On December 2nd, they took a short field trip to observe real-life flood solutions that are placed in Chungsapo Beach, such as ripraps, rock walls, and high and low walls. Although these were very familiar to many of the students, it was a meaningful experience to take another look at them while designing their own solutions.



Mr. Ryan Estrada and Ms. Erin Beaty Visit BFS

This month we were lucky to have Mr. Ryan Estrada and Ms. Erin Beaty visiting the school. Both are published, international renowned authors currently residing in Busan. They shared their tips on becoming an author, challenges, and encouraged our students to develop their literacy skills. Thank you Mr. Estrada and Ms. Beaty for your wisdom.



AP Statistics Experiment

AP Statistics students used regression analysis to determine the number of rubber bands needed for Barbie and friends to have the most exciting, yet safe, bungee jump experience from the 2nd floor of the foyer.



AP World History



In AP World History, students were looking at European exploration and settlement, so Ms. Gaelan modified the popular board game, "Settlers of Catan", to be Settlers of Canada, and teach the class about the economics of settlement. They had Canada-specific resources, such as furs, timber, and coal, and she shaped the board tiles to fit Canadian geography. To get across the shifting nature of economics, at one point in mid-game fur lost its value, while coal suddenly became more valuable, forcing students to adjust their strategies.



High School Student of the Quarter 2



Socially Conscious	<i>Caleb & Ryan</i>
Hardworking	<i>Ahmad, Gaetane & Lucy</i>
Articulate	<i>Danil</i>
Respectful	<i>Eunsaem</i>
Knowledgeable	<i>Tanvi, Stella & Daisy</i>

Can you believe we are one week off from finishing the second quarter? On December 8th, HS Stuco hosted the HS student of the quarter assembly. We were all challenged at the beginning with a game that prompted us to guess which Google searches rated higher. Congratulations to the students recognized at the assembly: You make us proud.



BFS Performs at the ECCK Year End Gala

Proud of our student led saxophone quartet as they performed at the ECCK Year End Gala in Busan on December 3rd! You sounded and acted like real pros!



Middle School Boys Futsal

On Saturday, November 13, 2021 our MS boys futsal team competed in the Southern Korean Activities Conference (SKAC) Futsal Finals. In the first match against the DIS 'A' team, the Sharks conceded 3 goals early in the match. Despite the slow start, the boys were disciplined and committed until the end, battling back from an early 0-3 deficit to tie up the game 4-4. An unfortunate last goal by DIS put them in the lead just before the match was over, and they won 5-4. The next two matches against GIFS and BIA were one-sided in favor of the Sharks. In both matches, our boys were clearly a stronger team by any measure. In the semi-finals, the boys played against ISB. Although the Sharks had more shots on target than ISB, the shot conversion lagged due to the phenomenal saves by the ISB goalkeeper. ISB, on the other hand, was efficient and was able to convert their shots to goals. The boys ended the match 2-5. In the third-fourth place match, the boys played against the DIS 'B' team. The Sharks were efficient in containing the ball on the offensive half of the field. The Sharks showed energy and speed that opponents struggled to keep up with. The boys were able to secure third place in the 2021 SKAC Futsal Finals by winning the match 6-3. Below are the match results and scoring leaders for the Sharks.

Match 1) BFS 4-5 over DIS 'A'
 Match 2) BFS 8-3 over GIFS
 Match 3) BFS 8-0 over BIA
 Match 3) BFS 2-5 over ISB
 Match 4) BFS 6-3 over DIS 'B'

Goal scorers: Noam 1
 Justin 14
 Mason 6
 Noah 4
 Schuyler 1
 Junyeong 1
 opponent own goal: 1



Middle School Girls Futsal

On Saturday, November 13, 2021 our MS girls futsal team competed in the Southern Korean Activities Conference (SKAC) Futsal Finals. Our girls were outstanding throughout the entire tournament as they cruised through the early rounds with great determination and hustle outscoring their opponents 19-1 over their first two matches. In the semifinal the girls met a solid team and the goals were much more difficult to come by. Leading 2-0 at halftime, the girls kept pressing and eventually went on to win 6-0. In the Final against the other undefeated team the Lady Sharks put in one goal in the first half in a very tight back and forth battle. In the second half the girls were able to notch a second goal to go up 2-0 midway through the second half. A bit later they scored their third and final goal and held on to win the championship match 3-0! This is a repeat title for the MS girls team as they also won the previous championship held in 2019. There was no tournament in 2020. Congratulations to all the girls and their coaches Mr. Cassinello & Mr. Yang! Below are the match results and scoring leaders for the Sharks.

Match 1) BFS 9-0 over ISB2
 Match 2) BFS 10-1 over GIFS
 Match 3) BFS 6-0 over DIS
 Match 4) BFS 3-0 over ISB1

Goal scorers: Mina 1
 Sophie 11
 Amber 8
 Maria 6
 Elsie 1
 opponent own goal: 1

Outstanding defensive players: Mina, Grace, Ruby, Nikol, Dana, Elsie



High School Boys Volleyball

On November 20th, The BFS Sharks boys volleyball teams eagerly resumed SKAC play.

The boys A Team started pool play against HIS. The match was one of the only A division matches to go three sets, with the Sharks splitting the first two sets 25-16, 26-28, with a few highlight-worthy sequences by Otis Linkfield. In a sudden-death third set, the BFS boys wasted no time in getting the two-point lead and taking the third set. In the second match of pool play against KFS, the Sharks swam smoothly to a knockout-round bye, defeating KFS in straight sets: 25-12, 25-13.

In tournament play, the Boys A Team met their cross town rivals, ISB. After meeting a few times throughout the season, the Sharks positioned themselves nicely with another straight-set win (25-10, 25-16), moving them into a rematch with HIS for the final. While the Sharks came out with a commanding first set of 25-9, HIS would end up digging in their heels and push back against the BFS Boys, taking the second and third sets consecutively (26-28, 11-15), giving BFS a second place finish in the 2021 SKAC Finals.

Tournament total stats for the BFS A Team were nothing less than impressive. Sam Yang once again provided invaluable defensive coverage, with support from his middle hitters, which resulted in an astonishing 95% serve receive percentage and an average of 10 digs per set. In addition to Otis Linkfield, power hitters Chiyeon Lee and Edward Cho aggressively swung for a combined 84% hitting percentage. Middle blockers Alex Lee and Nikita Lysenko were absolutely electrifying, utilizing huge hits to swing momentum and smart plays that kept rallies rolling. Beau Lee and Albert Oh gave a significant contribution in consistency and reliability, both in serving and attacking, and always giving setter Danil Galkin another option in his bag of tricks for the offense he led and commanded on the floor all day long.

The B team boys won the championship by defeating ISB in the third set of the championship game (23-15, 25-17, 15-7). The team was led by captain Chad Yang and leader extraordinaire Andrew Rivers who continually rallied the troops and didn't let anyone down. All boys pulled together to play as a team and kept up their attack the entire game with smash after smash. Huge blocks at the net provided a strong defensive end, along with bodies flying all over the floor to scoop up big digs.

In tournament play, the B Boys controlled every game they played, beating GIFS (2-0), DIS 2 (2-0), and DIS 1 (2-0).

With the end of the season upon them, this tight-knit group looks back at the last 12 weeks spent together and reflects on the amount of growth and opportunities this year has presented them. In short, they are thankful for their experiences and for each other. Coach Barnes & Wright are proud of their collective growth, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn all season long. With their heads held high, the underclassmen now look forward to next year. As for our seniors, your coaches and teammates thank you for the legacy you will leave on the program.



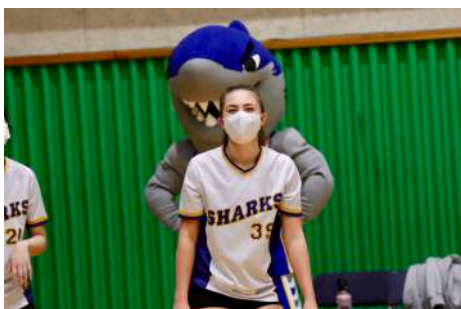
High School Girls Volleyball

The BFS Lady Sharks concluded the season as hosts of the SKAC tournament, the first large-scale tournament in 20 months, welcoming teams from six different schools in the region.

Both the A and B teams played very well throughout the tournament. B team rode strong serving from a number of different players including Sona and Sophie to stage some great comebacks to qualify for the finals, where they fell to a tough GIFS team to take second place. The B team showed great promise for the future with strong net play from Veronika and good setting from Victoria.

The A team outscored their opponents 164-76 in the three matches that they played. The team put together an impressive 91% successful serve rate, and Lydia led the ace count with 31. Kacy finished the day a perfect 22/22 from the serving line as well. Angie covered the floor to put up some great sets for her hitters. Despite an overall strong outing, the team came up short against ISB, losing the first set of the semifinals 26-28, then winning 25-7, before losing the third and deciding game 15-12. This sidelined them for the finals as they watched ISB take home the cup after defeating the Jets from DIS.

Although not satisfied with a second and third-place finish, the coaches felt that the girls showed impressive growth throughout the year, developing their volleyball skills and learning to play with a strong team mindset, knowing that in volleyball a team cannot rely on only one player for team success.



MS/HS Cross Country

Our MS&HS cross country team went up Jangsan mountain, behind the school, for their final race. Some running and a lot of walking as the mountain is quite steep. Considering all the hiccups this year brought to the team with cancelled races, it is amazing how strong and motivated the team remained: true Sharks!



Elementary Boys Futsal

We left the safety of the Shark Tank and headed east into the Bear's Den. It was an unusually warm fall day, the perfect weather for the final Elementary School futsal tournament to finish off the season. The boys did quite well notching 2 wins, with one coming over DIS in their first match. The second win of the day came against our sister school, GIFS. Players were exhausted by the end of the day with each team only having 1 substitute. They showed a lot of heart!

More important than wins and losses, we grew together as a team. Also, we got to see our soccer skills get a little bit better each day. Overall, they are a great group of young men and hopefully all the third and fourth graders will be returning next year for another season. For the fifth graders, we wish you the best of luck in middle school!



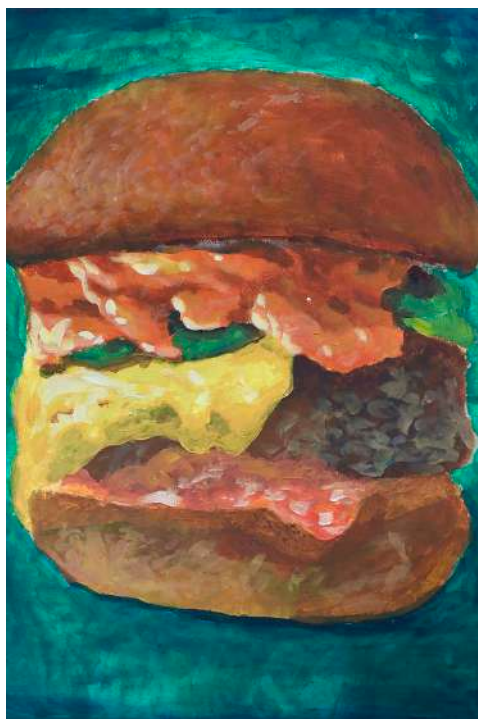
Elementary Girls Futsal

The elementary school girl's futsal team competed in the final tournament at ISB this past weekend. The Sharks were extremely successful and came out strong in all four matches against the Lions, the Bears (team one and two) and the Jets. The girls concluded the tournament with four wins, and wonderful lasting memories.

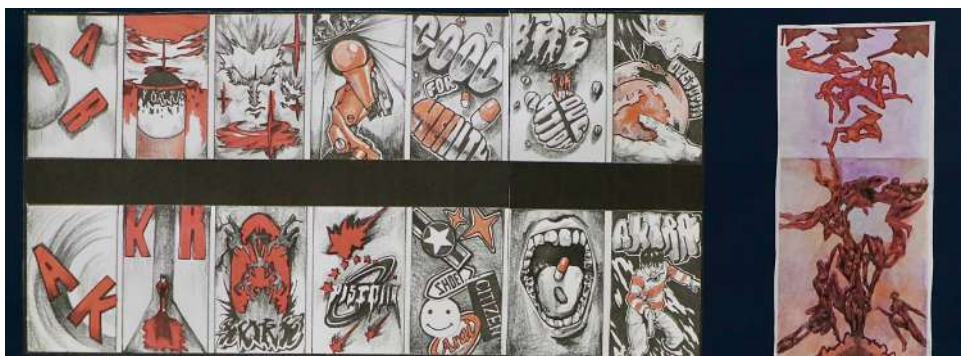
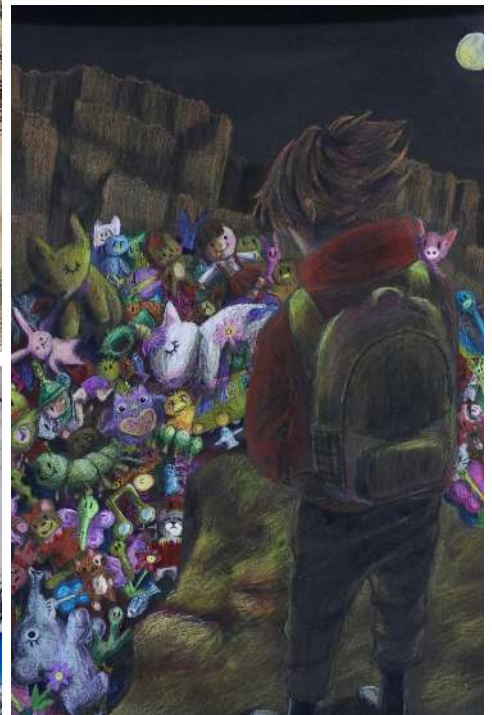
The Sharks communicated well, passed to each other, played well as a team, and displayed strong sportsmanship. The girls have been extremely dedicated this futsal season coming to each practice and working on futsal skills, all while supporting each other and growing as a team. It was a pleasure to watch the players evolve into the strong team they are today and develop a love for futsal. We look forward to next year's futsal season and congratulations to all players.



BFS Student Art Works



BFS Student Art Works



BFS Student Art Works



BFS Student Art Works



BFS Student Art Works





*Busan Foreign School
wishes you a happy winter holiday.*

The school's main office will
remain available during the winter break:
Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Please note the school will be closed
on **Thursday, December 23rd** and **Friday, December 24th**,
and from **Thursday, December 30th** to **Friday and December 31th**.

School resumes on Monday, January 10th.

The school's main office can be reached by
email at bfs@busanforeignschool.org or telephone at **+82(0)51 747 7199**.



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

25 YEARS A SHARK

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS | HARDWORKING | ACTIVE COMMUNICATOR | RESPECTFUL | KEEP LEARNING

www.busanforeignschool.org